

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, and 8-10 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Claims 11-13 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-13 are pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection – Scalise and Kalandek

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,362,187 (“Scalise”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,450,529 (“Kalandek”). The rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

None of the references, taken together or separately, disclose, teach, or suggest a spacer with a cylindrical portion and “a plurality of hooks, wherein the hooks are arranged about an outer circumference of the cylindrical portion, wherein the cylindrical portion extends between the hooks in a longitudinal direction of the spacer,” as called for in amended claims 1 and 10.

Scalise merely discloses a fastener that includes a bolt 12 with locking prongs 20 and a nut 14 that includes locking prongs 36. *See* Scalise at col. 2, line 60, to col. 3, line 26; and Figure 4. However, Scalise does not disclose a cylindrical portion that extends between the locking prongs of the bolt 12 or the nut 14. As can be seen in Figure 4 of Scalise, the prongs 20 and prongs 36 each have an open area in a center of the prongs. There is no extending cylindrical portion between the prongs 20, 36. Kalandek fails to cure the deficiencies of Scalise. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 10 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-3 and 5-9 and new claims 11-13 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in these dependent claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection – Scalise and Nakajima

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scalise and U.S. Patent No. 6,279,941 (“Nakajima”). The rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

Scalise and Nakajima, taken together or separately, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest an airbag with a spacer including a plurality of hooks, “wherein the hooks are arranged about an outer circumference of [a] cylindrical portion, wherein the cylindrical portion extends between the hooks in a longitudinal direction of the spacer” as called for in amended claim 4. Scalise does not disclose a cylindrical portion that extends between the locking prongs of the bolt 12 or the nut 14. *See* Scalise at Fig. 4. Nakajima fails to cure the deficiencies of Scalise. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

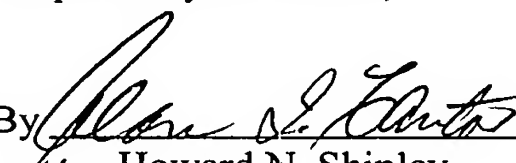
Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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